

Social Tennis Regrading

Over the past several months, the Captain's Sub-Committee has reviewed the grading system used by the club. This was triggered by the need to fix deteriorating name tags and by a number of complaints about social tennis sets. The sole purpose of having a grading is to help those on set duty make social tennis enjoyable for everyone. This is not an easy task.

This review has resulted in the implementation of a new grading system which has completely replaced the old. As a result, gradings under these systems cannot be compared. If, for example, your grading was a 2.0 but is now a 2.5 (as in the case of the club president) or if your grading was 2.0 but is now 3.0 (as in case of the club captain), this is not a reflection that the club considers your individual playing ability to have deteriorated.

Having too many players within the same grading group (e.g. 2.0, 2.5 etc.) was something the sub-committee considered may have been contributing to recent negative feedback about the quality, and so members' enjoyment, of club social tennis. The sub-committee also recognised that there are now greater numbers of club players playing pennant, and also an increasing diversity of playing abilities. Accordingly, the new grading system is more 'stretched' than previously, with more grading groups.

There is a range of standards within each grading group, and where one group starts and another stops is quite artificial – so there is often very little difference between some players with one grading and some players on a higher or lower grading. In determining a member's grading, the sub-committee consulted with the coaching team, reviewed (where appropriate) Tennis West ratings, and sought feedback from the management committee.

It's very important to bring the regrading process back to social tennis. The only purpose of implementing a new grading system was to improve the club's running of social tennis, as one of several measures to achieve that objective. Accordingly, I urge all members to reserve any judgement on revised gradings until after the system is tested through several weeks of social play.

Members new to social tennis will be given a grading as soon as it can be arranged by the Captain's Sub-Committee, according to the same process as outlined in this communication.

Just as the management committee has listened to members about the need to improve how social tennis is organised, so too will the Captain's Sub-Committee listen to what members have to say about the new grading system, having been informed (we hope) of the intention and methodology behind it. That is why the implementation of the new system has been accompanied by a feedback process.

The Captain's Sub-Committee is putting in place several things to allow for feedback. There are forms for anyone to make suggestions or complaints. There will be forms for people to provide feedback on their sets which will help to determine whether the new grading system has achieved its objective in allowing for better managed, organised and enjoyed social play. The sets will be monitored and examined for a period to see if the grading system is working.

If any member is concerned about their grading, or is unhappy with it, please let the Captain or any of the Vice Captains know.

The management committee, and all sub-committees under it, will always try and act, and make decisions, in a way which benefits the club 'as a whole'. I think, in most cases, we manage that task very well, and I see the work which John and his sub-committee has done on the regrading as an example of that; work which has been conducted in fairly challenging

circumstances, involving many hours, and with the understanding that gradings matter to a lot of our members.

MyTennis

Members may be aware that the club plays an annual fee to Tennis West for it to be affiliated. In 2016/17, this fee was \$5425. Under Tennis West policy, clubs are eligible for a percentage rebate on the affiliation fee if their members are 'entered' into the MyTennis database: the database used by Tennis West (and Tennis Australia) for notifications, player registration, and gathering of statistics.

It is the club's intention to enter members into the database to receive a rebate of \$1836, providing members' names, email addresses, and postcodes to Tennis West for this purpose. While Tennis West also requires DOBs and phone numbers, Floreat will provide these as generic details (e.g. 01-JAN-1900 and 0000-000-000).

The management committee is mindful of members' privacy, which is why consent will be sought first. However, for ease of managing that task, consent will be taken as given unless members advise otherwise. If members do not want their details provided to Tennis West, please advise me via email (petehullett@bigpond.com) by Friday 16th March.

Tennis West's privacy policy can be located at the link below.

<https://www.tennis.com.au/clubs/my-tennis/privacy-and-security>

Proposed Club Rules

Thank you to all members who provided feedback on the proposed new club rules. Work on the drafting of these rules is still a work in progress given an expectation that a working group being led by the Club's Vice President, Rob Nakhoul, to examine membership-related issues and responsibilities, many inform the final draft.

Peter Hullett
FPTC President